CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): An automated cafeteria comprising:

a cafeteria web site for presenting a menu over a public-access network and for assigning an order number to an order comprised of menu selections;

a computer for ~~viewing the presented menu~~ issuing an order message and for receiving the assigned order number over the public-access network;

a storage unit for the assigned order number that is coupled to the computer;

a label generator for receiving the assigned order number from the cafeteria web site and generating a label identifying the assigned order number for a corresponding prepared order, the label being associated with the corresponding prepared order; and

an automated check-out station for ~~receiving an~~ retrieving the assigned order number from the storage unit coupled to the computer and for verifying that the [received] retrieved assigned order number corresponds to the assigned order number on the generated label for a prepared order presented to the automated check-out station so that the prepared order may be obtained at the automated check-out counter.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The system of claim 7 wherein the storage unit for the assigned order number is a printout of the order number.

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Claim 9 (currently amended): The system of claim 7 wherein the storage unit for

the assigned order is a printout of a bar code corresponding to the order

number; and

the automated check-out station reads the printout of the bar code <u>to</u>

<u>retrieve the assigned order number</u> and verifies the assigned order

number by determining whether the <u>retrieved assigned order number of</u>

<u>the</u> printout of the bar code corresponds to the assigned order number <u>on</u>

<u>the label of the prepared order being presented at the automated check-</u>

<u>out station</u>.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The system of claim 7 wherein the computer is

a personal digital assistant (PDA) and the storage unit for the assigned

order number is internal to the PDA.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The system of claim 7 further comprising:

a card reader coupled to the computer; and

the storage unit is a stored-value card so that an assigned order

number transmitted to the computer from the cafeteria web site may be

stored by the card reader in the stored-value card <u>and retrieved from the</u>

<u>stored-value card by the automated check-out station</u>.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The system of claim 7 further comprising:

a card reader coupled to the computer, the card reader for reading

a stored-value card having a permanent identification number; and

the permanent identification number being transmitted over the

public-access network to the cafeteria web site for use as the assigned

order number.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The system of claim [[7]] 11 wherein the check-

out station deducts an amount corresponding to the prepared order

verified as having an assigned order number on its generated label that

corresponds to identified by the assigned order number retrieved from an

added-value the stored-value card.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The system of claim 7 further comprising:

a basket for holding a prepared order, the basket having a sensor

for detecting removal of a prepared order placed within the basket and

generating an alarm in response to detection of such removal; and

the automated check-out counter station for deactivating the basket

sensor so that the prepared order may be removed from the basket

without generating the alarm in response to the detection of such removal.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The system of claim 14, the basket further

comprising:

an anti-theft device coupled to the basket; and

the system further comprising:

a detector for detecting the unauthorized removal of the basket

from the cafeteria so that the basket sensor has to be de-activated in

order for the prepared order within the basket to be removed from the

cafeteria without generating an alarm.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A method for automating cafeteria order

correlation comprising:

presenting a menu over a public-access network;

selecting menu items from the presented menu over the public-access

network;

assigning an order number to an order comprised of menu selections;

receiving the assigned order number over the public-access network;

storing the assigned order number received over the public-access

network;

generating a label identifying the assigned order number for a

corresponding prepared order;

associating the generated label with its corresponding prepared order;

and

verifying that [[an]] the stored assigned order number received over the public-access network and retrieved from storage corresponds to the generated label identifying the assigned order number for a prepared order so the prepared order may be obtained contemporaneously with the assigned order number verification.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 16 wherein the assigned order number storage is comprised of printing the assigned order number.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 16 wherein the assigned order number storage is comprised of printing a bar code corresponding to the assigned order number; and

the assigned order number verification comprises determining whether the assigned order number retrieved from the printout of the bar code corresponds to the generated label identifying the assigned order number of a prepared order being presented at an automated check-out station.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 16 wherein the assigned order number storage comprises storing the assigned order number in a personal digital assistant (PDA); and the method assigned order number verification further comprising:

reading retrieving the assigned order number from the PDA and determining whether the retrieved assigned order number corresponds to

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for ~~verification of~~ the <u>generated label identifying the</u> assigned order number.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 16, the assigned order number storage further comprising:

       storing the assigned order number <u>received over the public-access network</u> in a stored-value card <u>so that the assigned order number may be retrieved from the stored-value card for verification</u>.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of claim 16 further comprising:

       reading a permanent identification number from a stored-value card; and

       transmitting the permanent identification number <u>over the public-access network</u> to a cafeteria web site for use as an assigned order number for a prepared order.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, the method further comprising:

       deducting an amount corresponding to the prepared order <u>verified as having an assigned order number on its generated label that corresponds to</u> ~~identified by~~ the assigned order number <u>retrieved</u> from <u>the stored-value</u> ~~an added-value~~ card.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method of claim 16 further comprising:

detecting removal of a prepared order from a basket containing the prepared order before order identification verification occurs; and

deactivating the removal detection so that the prepared order may be removed from the basket without detection.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, the method further comprising:

detecting the unauthorized removal of the basket containing the prepared order from the cafeteria so that the removal detection de-activation has to occur in order for the prepared order to be removed from the cafeteria.